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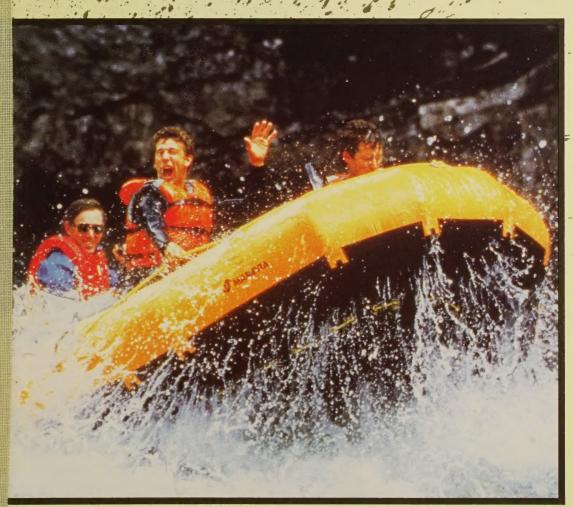
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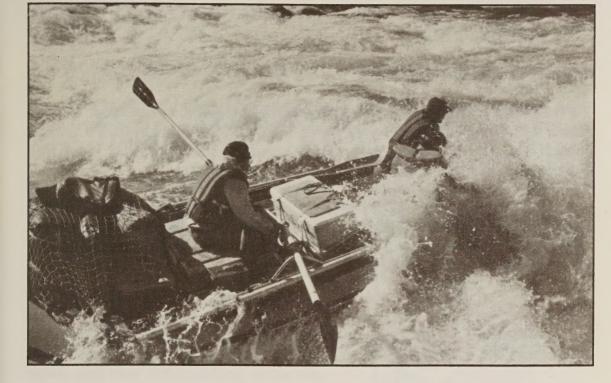




Forest Service Northern Region Bitterroot and Nez Perce National Forests

07 JUN 1991





THE RIVER...

The Selway River, a remnant of primitive America, flows for 47 roadless miles through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Recognizing the importance of preserving the river's free-flowing condition, Congress designated the Upper Selway a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

Floaters desiring a wilderness experience will encounter only a few private homesteads and a log cabin ranger station, but the Selway River is more than pristine scenery.

From Paradise Guard Station to Selway Falls, the river drops an average of 28 feet per mile, creating a technical whitewater experience to challenge even expert boaters. Numerous exposed and barely submerged rocks, and stretches of unbroken whitewater with few quiet recovery pools, require a high level of skill and expertise.

The limited permit system is designed to protect the wilderness and river resources while providing opportunities for solitude, adventure and a quality, floating opportunity. It is in effect from May 15 through July 31, and for further information, contact:

West Fork Ranger Station
Bitterroot National Forest
Darby, MT 59829
(Phone: 406-821-3269)

CATALOGING PREP.

LAUNCHING YOUR CRAFT...

From U.S. Highway 93 south of Darby, Montana, take Forest Service roads 468 and 6223 across Nez Perce Pass to the Paradise Guard Station launch site. The 67-mile route is mostly unpaved, and snow may block Nez Perce Pass until mid-June.

Road number 223 to the take-out, runs southeast from Lowell, Idaho, paralleling the lower Selway for 20 miles, and ends at the mouth of Race Creek. The first five miles are paved. The shuttle distance between the Paradise launch site and the take-out at Selway Falls is 245 miles.

Once you are launched, you must be self-sufficient and able to cope with any emergency. Assistance is generally unavailable along the river.

A Forest Service boater patrols the river from mid-June through July.

PRESERVING THE PURITY OF THE WATER...

Wash yourself and your dishes away from your campsite and at least 100 feet from any live stream. Use biodegradable, nonphosphate soaps or detergents. Burying your dishwater and food drainage will prevent water pollution, and will attract fewer insects to your campsite.



Human waste is best disposed of by utilizing portable facilities with disposable liners, and packing out fecal material. A disposal container is provided at the take-out. If you do not have a portable facility, bury human waste at least 100 feet away from any water. At campsites, dig a latrine and collect all toilet paper in a receptacle such as a paper bag. Before departure, fill in the latrine and burn the toilet paper in your campfire.

A FRAGILE WORK OF ART - LEAVE NO TRACE...

The number of campsites along the river is limited. The care your party gives these sites is critical to maintaining the wilderness environment and the enjoyment of those who follow.

Respect the vegetation at your campsite. Avoid digging tent trenches or using green material for shelters, bough beds, or lean-tos. Collect dead, down material for campfires rather than breaking limbs or cutting standing trees.

Portable stoves and fire pans should be used to reduce impacts. Fire pans significantly protect both the visual and physical qualities. Keep campfires small, and after extinguishing, throw the ashes into the midstream of the river.



Naturalize the area when you break camp. Replace any rocks that you have moved, and scatter needles and twigs over beaten-down areas.

Carry out all unburnable trash. Remember, "Pack it in, Pack it out!" Discarded cigarette butts and pull-tabs are just as unsightly as bottles and cans. Pick up and take out garbage that less sensitive visitors have abandoned on bars and beaches.

FOREST FIRES...

Lightning-caused forest fires are part of the natural ecosystem of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. Many of the area's plants and animals are dependent on fire for survival, so the Forest Service allows some lightning-caused fires to fulfill their natural role. Human-caused fires are not part of the Wilderness' natural community of life, and your help is needed in preventing them.

THANKS!

River managers have a great respect for floaters. You have traditionally demonstrated a mature and responsible sensitivity to the fragile wild rivers of the West. We appreciate all your efforts to reduce your impacts, and with your help, rivers such as the Selway will continue to flow pure and clean through wild and pristine canyons.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...

Contact these Forest Service offices:

West Fork Ranger District
Bitterroot National Forest
Darby, MT 59829
(Phone: 406-821-3269)

Moose Creek Ranger District Nez Perce National Forest Grangeville, ID 83530 (Phone: 208-983-2712)

THE RAPIDS...

Rapids are constantly changing. Each year, new boulders tumble into the river. Immersed rocks roll and slide and within an hour the Selway can rise or fall, altering the feasible routes through a rapid. It is dangerous to rely solely on the map in this, or any other river guide. Scout each major rapid in advance. Be alert for rapids and hazards that may not be indicated on the map.

The waters of the Selway River rise dramatically when the snows melt in the spring. The river boils through the canyon uprooting trees and flipping rafts. Professional boatguides consider the river hazardous when the water gauge at Paradise Guard Station measures 6 feet. The river is virtually unnavigable at levels above 7 feet. The river can attain these levels anytime between mid-May and early July. Contact the West Fork Ranger Station for up-to-date information on water levels, weather and road conditions.

In May and June, the river is fed from melting snowbanks, and the water temperature can be as low as 38 degrees, even though the air temperature is in the 80's. When cold rains combine with these icy waters, *hypothermia* can become a boater's curse. Be familiar with the symptoms and know how to prevent it.

By August, the river can fall below .0 feet at Paradise gauge. In levels below 1.9 feet each rapid becomes a maze of exposed rocks. Even small rafts can be sliced and cut beyond repair.

If you have had little experience in running whitewater rivers as technically difficult as this, think twice before floating the Selway.

EUROPEAN RAPID RATING SYSTEM...

Each rapid shown on the map is rated 1 through 6. The ratings indicate the difficulty of each rapid at a water level of 4 feet on the Paradise Guard Station gauge. Ratings will change at different water flow levels and the Selway is known for fast, extreme changes in water level. Inflow from streams below the Paradise gauge are substantial and hard to predict.

Your safety is your responsibility - SCOUT!!

Class 1, VERY EASY - Small, regular waves and riffles; few or no obstacles; little maneuvering required.

Class 2, EASY - Small waves with some eddies, low ledges, and slow rock gardens; some maneuvering required.

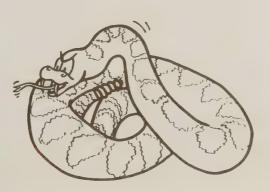
Class 3, MEDIUM - Numerous waves that are high and irregular; strong eddies; narrow, but clear passages that require expertise in maneuvering. Scouting from the shore necessary.

Class 4, DIFFICULT - Long rapids with powerful, irregular waves, dangerous rocks and boiling eddies; precise maneuvering and scouting from the shore imperative. Take all possible safety precautions.

Class 5, VERY DIFFICULT - Long rapids with wild turbulence and extremely congested routes that require complex maneuvering; a danger to your life and boat and near the limits of navigation.

Class 6, THE LIMITS OF NAVIGATION - Rarely run; a definite hazard to your life.

CAUTION . . .
The Selway River area is rattlesnake country!
Please be alert.



NOTE: This hydrograph is a very general guide for predicting flows. The line represents a depth point average from readings on the dates shown. Considerable fluctuation can occur daily, especially on very warm days and after high-intensity rainstorms. This hydrograph is for Paradise only; more fluctuation can be expected further downstream.

The period of safe operation for each type craft is a rough approximation and varies with the amount of experience of the operator, condition of the equipment, and difficulty of various rapids under various flow conditions.

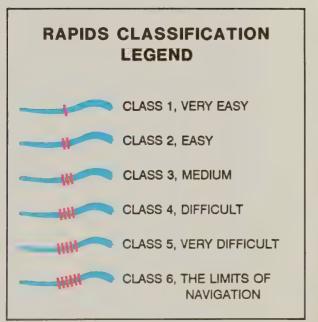
This legend is designed to fold out so that it may be viewed concurrently with each map panel.



MAP SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

0 1/2 1 2 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL = 164 FEET



Refer to previous page for a more detailed definition of each class.

